

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03001 302334Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /097 W
-----118461 012257Z /61

R 301130Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 725
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MV, CE

SUBJ: REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REF: (A) STATE 163526, (B) COLOMBO 2841

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES HAS
ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO ADVANCE THE DATE FOR THE NATIONAL
REFERENDUM FROM SEPTEMBER 11 TO JULY 28, 1978.

2. REASON FOR CHANGE OF DATE
NO REASON FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE DATE FOR THE NATIONAL
REFERENDUM HAD BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
MALDIVES (GOM). ON JUNE 29, 1978, WE DISCUSSED SITUATION IN
MALDIVES WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY COLOMBO EMBOFF, WHO HAD RETURNED
FROM MALDIVES JUNE 28. HE SAID REASON FOR REFERENDUM ADVANCE-
MENT BEING GIVEN IN MALDIVES IS THAT GOM DOES NOT BELIEVE
TWO MONTH PERIOD (SEPT. 11 - NOV. 11) BETWEEN REVIOUSLY SCHE-
DULED NATIONAL REFERENDUM DATE AND NOVEMBER INAUGURATION NEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COLOMB 03001 302334Z

PRESIDENT PROVIDES ENOUGH TIME FOR ORDERLY TRANSITION. THUS,
THE DATE WAS ADVANCED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SIX WEEK TRAN-
SITION TIME.

3. RUMORS OF "EXTERNAL PRESSURE"
JAPANESE EMBOFF STATED THAT THERE WAS TALK IN MALDIVES OF
"EXTERNAL INFLUENCE" PUT ON PRESIDENT NASIR TO STEP DOWN FROM

THE PRESIDENCY. THE USSR, INDIA, AND LIBYA WERE MENTIONED.
HE WAS DOUBTFUL OF THESE RUMORS. WE AGREE. NASIR HAS PROVEN,
BY HIS HANDLING OF LAST YEAR'S SOVIET EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCESS
TO GAN ISLAND THATHE IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO PRESSURE.

4. EMBASSY TO MONITOR JULY 28 POPULAR ELECTION
EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER WILL TRAVEL TO MALDIVES DURING PERIOD
OF NATIONAL REFERENDUM AND MONITOR ELECTION MECHANICS AND
RESULTS.

5. COMMENT
WE FIND THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE CHANGE IN THE REFERENDUM
DATE TO BE REALISTIC. WHILE A TWO MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD
MIGHT NORMALLY APPEAR AMPLE FOR THE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN
A COUNTRY THE SIZE OF THE MALDIVES, THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS
WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND. NASIR HAS BEEN PRESIDENT FOR
TEN YEARS. PRIOR TO THAT HE SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER.
NASIR HAS HAD A WEAK CABINET AND MINISTERS WHO DEFERRED MOST
MAJOR DECISIONS TO HIM. THUS, MUCH OF THE DECISION MAKING
PROCESS HAS COME UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SUPERVISION
AND NASIR IS THE "MEMORY BANK" FOR MAJOR GOM DECISIONS OF THE
LAST TEN YEARS. PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE GAYOOM ACCEPTED THE
NOMINATION OF THE MAJLIS BECAUSE IT WAS "THE WILL OF THE
PEOPLE AS PUT FORTH BY THE MAJLIS" AND UNDER THE CONDITION
THAT PRESIDENT NASIR WOULD "ASSIST HIM DURING THE TRANSITION
PERIOD." THOUGH GAYOOM IS CONSIDERED TO BE A BRIGHT POLITIAN,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COLOMB 03001 302334Z

HE HAS LITTLE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS AT THE DECISION
MAKING LEVEL. ALL THIS WILL NECESSITATE A LONGER THAN NORMAL
TRANSITION PERIOD.
LEVIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB03001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780272-1084
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978065/aaaaadjy.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30b65087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 163526, 78 COLOMBO 2841
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2316017
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, MV, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30b65087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014